THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) While bidding was going on at Additional Platform No. 23, Ongole on 18-6-92, a few farmers, aggrieved by the prices offered, manhandled the Auction Superintendent.

(b) The tobacco offered for sale on that day was from the areas producing saline tobaccos. The prices offered were comparatively less for such tobaccos. The farmers felt that their tobacco was down graded, which was not true. When the Auction Superintendent tried to explain the situation to the farmers, he was manhandled by some farmers. Consequently, the officers and staff of the Tobacco Board in the platforms in Andhra Pradesh boycotted the auctions from 19-5-92. The auctions were resumed on 23-5-92, after intervention by Chairman, Tobacco Board by holding discussions with the growers, staff members, Association respresentatives etc.

(c) In the meeting, farmers and their representatives assured that such things would not be repeated. Action has also been initiated as per the provisions of the Auction Regulations.

Quantity of F.C.V. Tobacco sold on Auction Platforms in Andhra Pradesh

1136. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total quantity of F.C.V. tobacco sold on auction platforms in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) what is the average price; and

(c) what is the platform-wise details thereof, alongwith the corresponding figures for the previous year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) The total quantity of F.C.V. Tobacco marketed at on 10-7-92 is 127 M. kgs.

(b) The average price realised as on 10-7-92 is Rs. 27.95 per Kg.

(c) Auction platformwise details are given in the Statement attached. [*See* Appendix CLXIV, 395, Annexure No. 24].

Export order of F.C.V. Tobacco

1137. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMECRE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total export order of tobacco this year;

(b) what is the demand for domestic consumption;

(c) what is the total quanity of F.C.V Tobacco exported so far;

(d) what is the total quantity of F.C.V. tobacco contracted for export; and

(e) what are the prices of export quantity of F.C.V. tobacco for different countries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) FCV Tobacco export are projected at 55,000 tons in packed weight for the year 1992-93.

(b) Demand for domestic consumption is projected at 81 M.Kgs. in green weight.

(c) 9785 tons till end June, 1992 (packed weight).

(d) As per information available with the Tobacco Board, as on 15-7-92, total quantity contracted for export [including (c) above] is in the region of 25,000 tons.